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Consequences

I PICKED UP THE ENVELOPE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS LAST NIGHT. IT WAS ADDRESSED FOR MY EYES ONLY.

SO I X-RAYED IT, TO MAKE SURE IT WASN'T A LETTER BOMB.

I WAS BUSHED AND DIDN'T BOTHER TO OPEN IT UNTIL BREAKFAST.

WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY.

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THERE'S A LETTER ACCOMPANYING THE PHOTO.

Batman - Come without police or Gordon will die. Bring the boy with you - a Bereaved Father.

ALFRED, COULD YOU BRING ME THE PHONE?

OF COURSE.

THIS IS BATMAN. IS JIM HOME?

OUT OF TOWN ON BUSINESS, EH?

NO, IT'S NOT IMPORTANT. I'LL CATCH HIM LATER.

WHAT'S UP, BRUCE?

NOTHING JASON. NOTHING AT ALL.

SO HE WANTS ME TO BRING JASON ALONG...

IT'S NOT HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHO THE BEREAVED FATHER IS.

FELIPE GARZONAS WAS A LITTLE PUNK WITH A TASTE FOR COCAINE AND ABUSING WOMEN.

JASON AND I MET HIM SHORTLY AFTER HE'D HAD HIS WAY WITH A YOUNG MODEL, ONE GLORIA STANSON.

TURNED OUT THE LAW COULDN'T TOUCH HIM BECAUSE OF HIS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

HIS FATHER WAS BOGAITAGO'S AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.A.

KNOWING FELIPE WAS GOING TO TAKE ANOTHER CRACK AT HER, GLORIA STANSON OPTED FOR A FOOLISH AND VERY PERMANENT WAY OUT.

THIS SET JASON OFF. HE JUST COULDN'T DEAL WITH THE INJUSTICE OF THE SITUATION.

I KNEW HE'D BE HEADING FOR FELIPE'S APARTMENT AND PRAYED I'D CATCH UP WITH HIM IN TIME.

I WASN'T.

FELIPE TOOK A TWENTY STORY NOSE DIVE ONTO FIFTH AVENUE.

I FOUND ROBIN ON FELIPE'S BALCONY, COOLLY STARING OVER THE PARAPET.

WHEN I DEMANDED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED...

I GUESS I SPOOKED HIM.

HE SLIPPED.

I DIDN'T PRESS THE MATTER. HOW COULD I CONTINUE ON WITH JASON AS MY PARTNER?

FELIPE'S DEATH WAS REPORTED AS AN ACCIDENT AND THE AUTHORITIES ACCEPTED IT AS SUCH.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE FELIPE'S FATHER, JOSÉ CARRIONAS, DIDN'T BUY THIS VERDICT.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

JOSÉ AUGMENTS HIS INCOME AS A DIPLOMAT BY THE LARGE SCALE SMUGGLING OF COCAINE INTO THIS COUNTRY.

SUCH A MAN DOESN'T TAKE THE DEATH OF HIS SON LIGHTLY

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS WHY HE WANTS ME TO BRING JASON ALONG.

WHICH IS WHY I'LL HANDLE THIS CASE ALONE.

BETTER HURRY, JASON. YOU'LL BE *LATE* FOR *SCHOOL*.

ON MY WAY. SEE YOU TONIGHT?

SURE.

OF COURSE I RECOGNIZE THE JUNK YARD IN THE PHOTO.

I WAS MEANT TO.

AND YES, I KNOW IT'S A TRAP.

I'M GOING ANYWAY.

SOME THINGS IN LIFE ARE JUST TOO TEMPTING TO RESIST.

MASTER JASON!

GONE?

... MUST HAVE LEFT FOR SCHOOL.

HE FORGOT TO TAKE HIS LUNCH WITH HIM... AND...

... HIS SCHOOL BOOKS?

THIS IS THE PLACE. I'M SURE THEY'VE HEARD ME PULL UP.

THERE'S AT LEAST A DOZEN GUNS AIMED TOWARD THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THIS YARD.

WALLY'S JUNK YARD

WHICH IS A GREAT REASON FOR NOT GOING IN THAT WAY.

WALKING INTO A TRAP IS ONE THING.

BEING STUPID IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.

I LAND AS QUIETLY AS I POSSIBLY CAN.

THIS MOVE PROBABLY SAVES MY LIFE.

THE TWO GUNMEN ARE NO MORE THAN FIFTEEN YARDS IN FRONT OF ME.

THEY LOOK TOUGH AND COMPETENT, LIKE THEY KNOW HOW TO USE THOSE UZIS.

I DON'T PLAY AROUND WITH THEM.

I TAKE THEM OUT QUICKLY, AND WITH PROBABLY MORE FORCE THAN NECESSARY.

WALLY'S JUNK YARD

CLOSED

WALLY'S JUNKYARD

YOUR *FRIENDS* ARE HERE. I CAN FEEL THEM GETTING CLOSER.

WHICH MEANS THAT YOU'LL SOON SEE THEM *DIE!*

THIS ONE DOESN'T LOOK AS PROFESSIONAL AS THE OTHERS.

I FIGURE I CAN GET A BIT FANCY WITH HIM.

MAYBE GET A LITTLE IMPROVISATIONAL.

HUH?

KA-TUNK!

ULP!

I GET CARELESS.

IT HAPPENS SOMETIMES.

FREEZE, SUCKER!!

THEY CATCH ME FLATFOOTED.

WELL, ALMOST FLATFOOTED.

I'D HOPED TO END THIS WITHOUT ANY MORE DEATHS.

THAT WAS *AUTOMATIC* GUNFIRE!

GOOD THING I TAGGED ALONG

SOUNDS LIKE BATMAN'S GOING TO NEED AN' HELP

THEY'RE GETTING STILL NEARER.

SOON MY SON'S *DEATH* WILL BE *AVENGED*

SOON VERY SOON

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS, *GARZONAS!*

WHO'S TO STOP ME?

YOU?

YOUR DOOMED FRIENDS?

THE SHOTS CAME FROM AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!

I DON'T SEE NOTHIN'

I WISH WE NEVER TOOK THIS JOB ON

ME TOO!

DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF MESSING WITH THE *BATMAN*

YEAH, I HEAR THE DUDE'S *NOT* HUMAN!

I DO A CLEAN JOB ON THESE TWO.

THEY'RE OUT OF THE GATE EVEN BEFORE THEY RETRIEVE I'M ON MISS.

THAT'S EVERY DOWN

NOWHERE TO GO?

I'VE GOT TO GO ON AND FREE GORDON.

HOLD ON, JIM

I'M COMING

IF I DON'T, MY OLDEST FRIEND IS DEAD.

SMITTY, YOU BLOODY JERK!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, GIVE OUR POSITION AWAY?

PUT THAT CIGARETTE OUT!

OKAY OKAY.

THE CAST IS ASSEMBLED

IT SEEMED TO BE A PERFECT SITUATION

BUT SOMEWHERE SOMETHING WENT TERRIBLY WRONG

THE CAST IS ASSEMBLED AND READY TO GO

IT WAS A PERFECT SITUATION

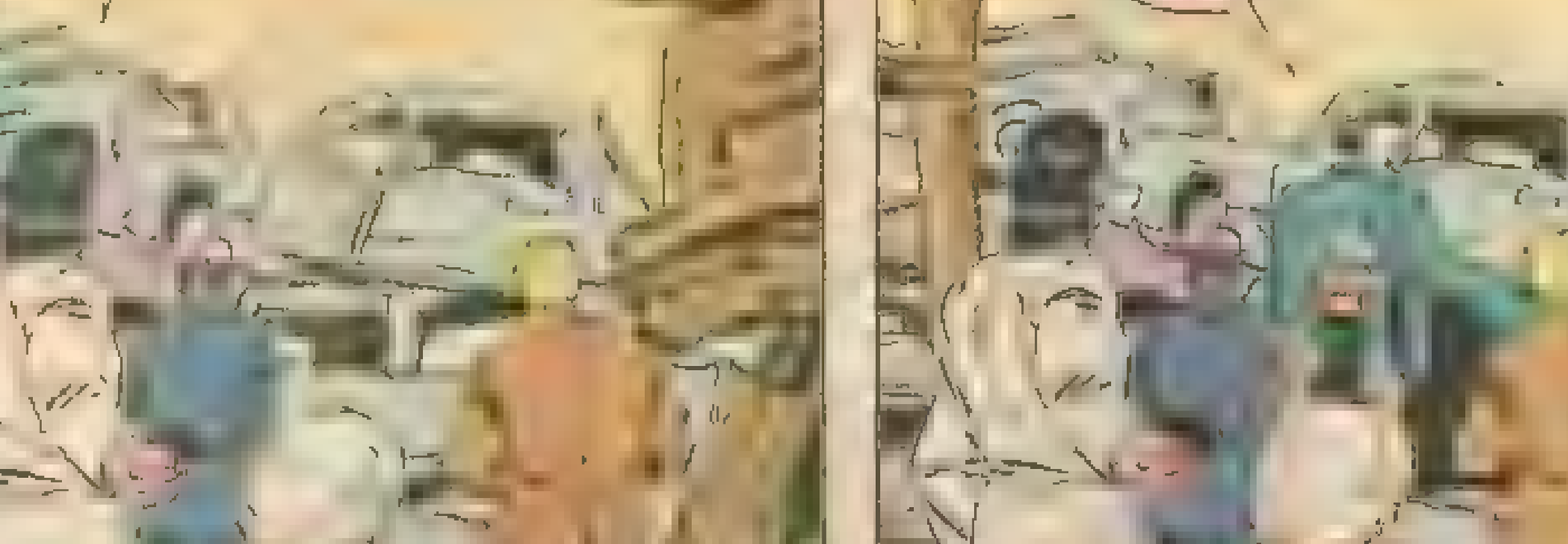
BUT SOMEWHERE SOMETHING WENT TERRIBLY WRONG

WELCOME, BATMAN!

I WANT YOU TO STEP OUT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU, BATMAN!

IF YOU DON'T, I WILL PUT A BULLET INTO SENOR GORDON'S HEAD.

YOU HAVE UNTIL THE COUNT OF THREE TO COMPLY



WHERE IS THE BOY?

I LEFT HIM AT HOME.

OUR FIGHT IS WITH ME.

VERY WELL. HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT ONE.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I CATCH A GLIMPSE OF GORDON GETTING TO HIS FEET AND HIGH-TAILING IT.

BUT I'M NOT FAST ENOUGH TO STOP GARZONAS FROM REACHING THE FALLEN UZI.

I FIGURE HIM FOR TRYING TO USE IT ON ME.

[illegible]

BUT ROBIN'S TOO FAST FOR HIM.

WATCHING THAT EXCHANGE HAS THROWN ME OFF.

I KNOW I'M NOT GOING TO REACH THE SECOND GUNMAN IN TIME.

I NEAR, I GET MYSELF OUT IN HALF BY THE BLAST.

[illegible]

THAT'S WHEN GARZONAS GIVES UP ON ROBIN AND TURNS HIS ATTENTION BACK TO ME.

I'VE BLOWN IT!

THEY'VE CAUGHT ME IN A CROSSFIRE. NOWHERE TO RUN!

ANY MOMENT NOW, ONE OF THOSE BULLETS WILL FIND ITS MARK.

NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD END LIKE THIS.

CUT DOWN BY A FILTHY DRUG DEALER...

NOTHING TO DO BUT KEEP SCRAMBLING UP THIS TOWER OF SCRAP METAL.

SOME MIRACLE ALLOWS ME TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP OF THE HEAP.

I CAN BUY MYSELF A FEW MORE SECONDS OF LIFE BY FLATTENING OUT ON THE ROOF, THEN...

WHAT'S THIS?!

MY SAFE PERCH DECIDES TO COLLAPSE ON ME.

I CAN FEEL IT GOING...

ALL GARZONAS WOULD HAVE HAD TO DO IS STEP BACK AND PICK ME OFF WHEN I LANDED

BUT I GUESS HIS THIRST FOR VENGEANCE BLINDS HIM TO THE DANGER.

HE CONTINUES TO BLAST AWAY AT ME, EVEN WITH THE SCORPIAN TOWER OF BABEL CRASHING DOWN ON HIM.

KAR-TUNKK!!

TOOK CARE OF THIS CUT RATE BAD GUY FOR YOU.

YOU OKAY?

YES, FINE. THANKS

WHAT GOES ON HERE?

A LOT OF *STUPIDITY* AND SOME *DEATHS*, ALL WRAPPED UP IN A FATHER'S *RIGHTEOUS ANGER*.

SAY WHAT?

WHO WAS THE OLD GUY WITH THE UZI?

HIS NAME WAS *JOSÉ GARZONAS*.

HE WAS *REUAE'S FATHER*, ROBIN.

FOR EVERY *ACTION* IN THIS UNIVERSE, THERE IS AN OPPOSITE AND EQUAL *REACTION*.

CONSEQUENCES, ROBIN. THERE'S NO ESCAPING THEM.

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The End